'A-Blackmail' Warning Is Puzzle to Specialists

By Murrey Marder Staff Reporter

President Johnson's pledge that the United States will this: support non-nuclear nations that are threatened with "nu-seek national nuclear weapons are variously called "free clear blackmail" may contain can be sure that if they need world" or "non-Communist" some significant implications our strong support against for the future.

The President's statement was made in his Sunday night report to the Nation on the dramatic shakeup in the Kremlin and Communist China's first nuclear blast.

On the surface, what the mail" President promised in terms of American aid to threatened nations generally was regarded as an unexceptional President's phasing. He did ple, already operates outside statement. But its subsurface not specify "free world" or the blocs.

implications have become a "non-Communist" nations, implications have become a subject of controversy and which is the usual semantic puzzlement for many foreign practice in Government statepolicy specialists.

India Reassured

The widespread impression was that the President was giving new assurance to the non-Communist nations in Asia, such as India and Japan, that might feel menaced by Red China's first nuclear blast.

That impression was reinforced by comments made by State Department officials.

if the President was declaring now be counted as an element some large, new American nuclear defense doctrine that could apply to any nation Communist or non-Communist, that does not possess its own nuclear weapons.

President may have misspoken nations from leaping into the apparently depends on events

unintentionally ambiguous pons in the belief that it is language.

What the President said was

"The nations that do not some threat of nuclear blackmail, then they will have it."

Because the President was discussing Communist China and Asia in the preceding portions of his remarks, public explanations of his intent placed his "nuclear blackcomment in that con-

however, there Literally. was no such limitation on the ments of that nature.

Administration sources declined yesterday to make any statement of amplification on the public record, even after one nationally syndicated columnist publicly asked if the President's remark sented an "impulsive act." The President's statement will stand on the record, officials said, as it was delivered.

There appear to be the fol-Others, however, wondered lowing reasons for what must President's remark:

their only means of selfdefense in a nuclear age.

Under present circumstances the President's pledge applies most directly to what nations.

But the President and his advisers chose to avoid such terminology. Their language left the possibility that at some point in the future a Communist nation might want to break from Moscow's or Peking's fold and seek protection under the American nuclear umbrella if threatened with nuclear blackmail. Communist Yugoslavia, for exam-

Question of Albania

Does this mean that a country like Communist Albania, which follows Peking's line, could claim United States protection if it were threatened with nuclear attack by the Soviet Union? Informal sources reply that the question is "too hypothetical" to warrant a specific response.

Equally, no official wants to specify now just what nations are in, and what nations are out, of the embrace of the American pledge. It is said that it would not be in the of deliberate ambiguity in the interest of the United States to make such a delineation. The major purpose behind Nor does anyone want to say the President's pledge to at this point just how imcome to the aid of nations portant the President's statethreatened with nuclear black-ment may become in future Still others asked if the mail was to discourage other American foreign policy. That his intentions, by the use of production of nuclear wea-that no one can now forecast.